Pepler, M E (Mrs. T. S. G.) [Canadian Aviation Aid Club] 1914-18

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NTO, April 2nd, 1918

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Canadian Aviation Aid
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36 North Street, Toronto.

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Club, Toronto.

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C. A. A. C.

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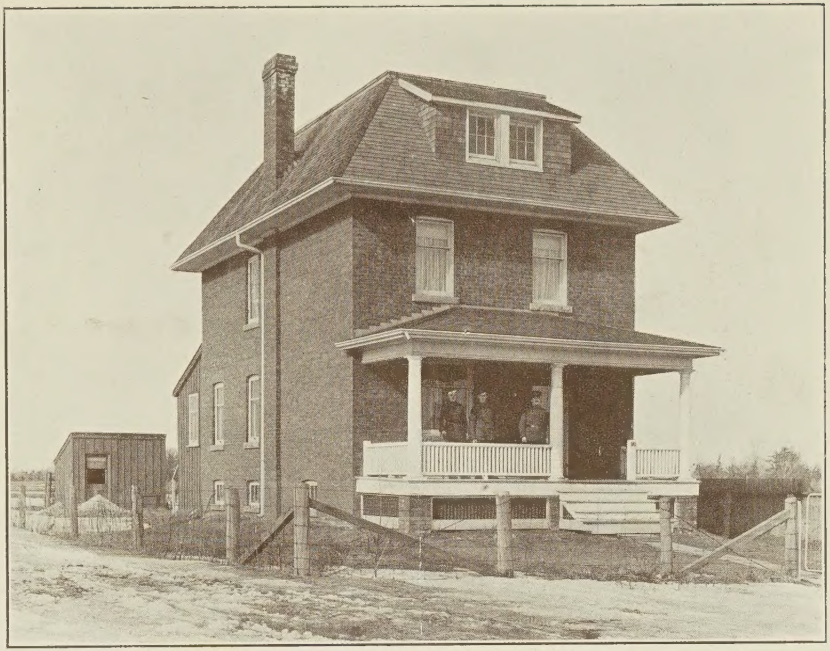
Canadian Aviation Aid Club

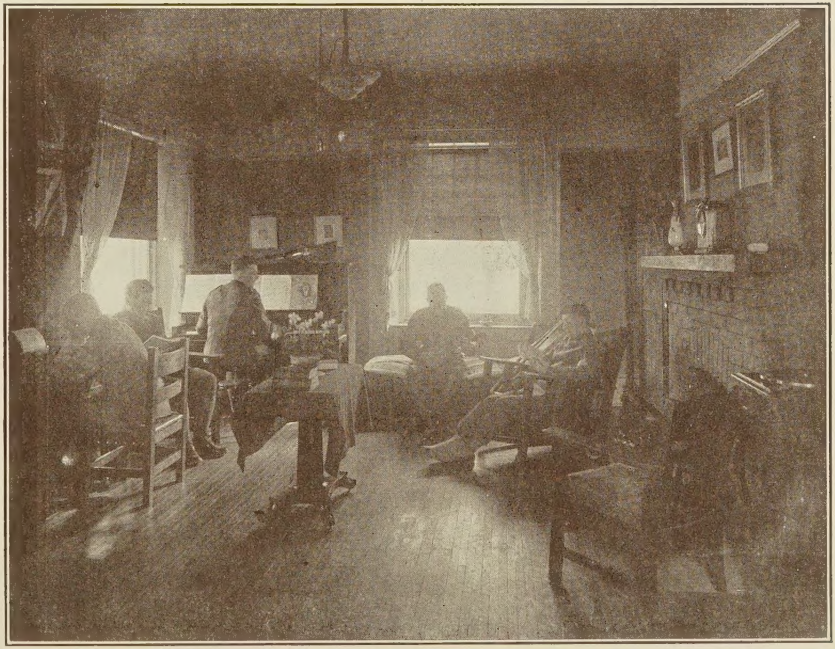
Registered under The War Charities Act of 1917,
at Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa.

Pepler, M E (Mrs. T.S.G.) Canadian Aviation Aid Club 1918

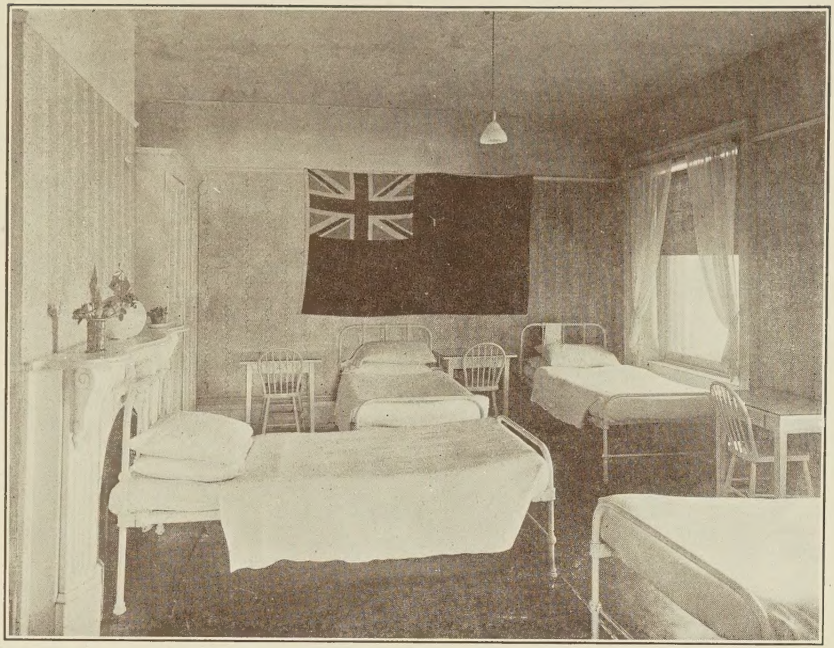
Longwood R.F.C. Convalescent Home



The Longwood Annex



The Recreation Room



One of the Wards

OFFICERS

Hon. President.....Mrs. C. W. Beatty.

Hon. Vice-President.....Mrs. W. Hamilton Merritt

EXECUTIVE, 1918

President.....Mrs. Stuart Strathy,
54 Clarendon Avenue.

Vice-President.....Mrs. Henry Sproatt,

Secretary.....Mrs. T. S. G. Pepler,
557 Huron St

Treasurer.....Mrs. William Ince
94 Prince Arthur Avenue
Mrs. W. B. Maclean.

Mrs. C. W. Beatty.

Mrs. Ruggles George.

Convener of Socks Committee.....Mrs. Wilson Howard.

Convener of Workroom Committee....Mrs. Henry Sproatt.

Convener of Purchasing.....Mrs. Ralph E. King.

Convener of Hospital Visiting Committee...Mrs. Doolittle.

Canadian Aviation Aid Club

AS the vast importance and distinction of the Air Service of the British Empire grows and expands, there is kindled in the hearts of many of us a keen desire to aid, in every possible way, our gallant airmen, whether on active service in the battle line, in hospital, or in training at home; and from all parts of Canada we hear of relatives and friends of our aviators who are anxious to specially devote their energies to this particular form of War Work.

The Imperial Royal Flying Corps in Canada has expressed a wish to the President of the C.A.A.C., that all such work should be co-ordinated under one central organization, on the lines of the R.F.C. Aid and Prisoners of War Fund, London, England, with whom the C.A.A.C. expects shortly to be affiliated, and with this end in view has suggested that Branches or Chapters of the C.A.A.C. be formed in various cities and towns of the Dominion—such Branches to be self-governing and independent, but affiliated with the C.A.A.C. (the earliest organization of its kind in Canada) in Toronto, where Headquarters I.R.F.C. is established. By co-operating in this manner, great results may be attained in the providing of hospital supplies, and comforts for our air squadrons, both in Canada and overseas.

At the Annual Meeting of the C.A.A.C. on January 11th, 1918, the following message was received from Brig.-Gen. Hoare, who was then in Texas:

> "I cannot speak too highly of the good work done by the "Canadian Aviation Aid Club in respect of looking after the "comforts of the Royal Flying Corps. An untiring committee "have done all in their power to make a success of everything "they have put their hands to, and it is largely owing to their "co-operation and good-will that the Longwood Convalescent "Home is such a complete success."
>
> (Signed) C. G. Hoare, Brigadier-General,
> commanding Royal Flying Corps, Canada.

The inaugural meeting of the C.A.A.C. was held on March 9th, 1917, the nine members present being, with one exception, mothers or sisters of flying officers of the R.N.A.S. or R.F.C. The membership has now grown to 230, and the objects of the Club, as set forth in the Constitution, are—"To provide comforts for aviators and mechanics of the R.N.A.S. and R.F.C. whether in camp or hospital, in Canada or overseas."

The early efforts of the Club were directed to the providing of comforts such as pianos, gramophones, books and magazines, sporting goods and games, curtains and pictures, etc., for the men in barracks, or in camps at Borden, Leaside, Armour Heights and Deseronto.

Between March and the end of December, 1917, the Club raised the sum of $3,576.36, which money was used, partly for the work over overseas, and partly for the work in Canada, and in January and

February of this year, a further sum of $2,140.45 has been realized. $650.00 of this has already been sent to Lady Henderson, President of the R.F.C. Aid—$100.00 to be used for Prisoners of War, and $550.00 for the Bryanstone Square Hospital. 'X'

Through the courtesy of Messrs. Sproatt and Rolph the Club is allowed the use of one of their large drafting-rooms at 36 North Street, where, with several sewing machines installed, our members are busily engaged every Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. in making pyjamas, hospital supplies, etc. From our workroom we have sent hundreds of pairs of pyjamas and other comforts to the R.F.C. Aid in London, and to our Hospitals in Toronto. In addition to this 488 pairs of socks have been received, 402 pairs have been sent overseas, and 86 pairs distributed at home.

A member of the Executive has given her country house, "Longwood," fully equipped for the care of 26 patients, to the Club for the duration of the war, to be used as a Convalescent Home for Cadets, N.C.O.'s, and men of the I.R.F.C. To this has been added recently a further gift of a second house on the same estate, to accommodate 24 patients. This has been furnished partly by the R.F.C. and partly by the generous donor herself. Since July, 1917, Longwood has been used by Cadets and mechanics from all parts of Canada and the United States. The providing of pyjamas, extra linen, soap, sugar, jam, and numerous other comforts and necessaries at Longwood is our immediate work at home, while continuing to send money, pyjamas, socks, etc., to our hospitals overseas.

Longwood Convalescent Home is north of Toronto, at Stop 26, Yonge Street, and is operated by the C.A.M.C. as an Annex to the Military Base Hospital, Gerrard Street, Toronto. It is a large, comfortable brick residence, standing in several acres of ground,

'X'

Total sums sent overseas since March 1917.

To R.F.C. Aid Committee $800.00

" R.F.C. Prisoners of War Fund 200.00

$1000.00

with tennis courts, croquet lawns bordered by old-fashioned flower gardens, beautiful trees and shrubs, and a large expanse of turf to the south of the Home, where, in summer, the hospital tents are pitched. The wards are roomy and bright, with bath rooms attached. There is a large mess-room, a recreation room with open fireplace, a piano, gramophone, and books, a small billiard room in the basement and a private sitting room, mess-room and bedrooms for the Nursing Sisters.

From August until November, besides the indoor cases there were four hospital tents always full, 249 patients having been under treatment up to March 1st, 1918. An extension of 100 beds under canvas is to be made this summer. A splendid staff has maintained the Home at the highest degree of efficiency and comfort. The following letter was received by the President of the Club in November, 1917:—

"Dear Mrs. Strathy,

"I visited the Longwood Home yesterday afternoon, and "should like to say how very much struck I was with the really "admirable way it is kept. It is a model of neatness and "efficiency, which is highly creditable to all concerned. I found "a few wanted improvements that seem to have hung fire, and "have taken steps to have these put in hand at once.

"It is a real pleasure to visit a Home like this which is "properly run and fulfilling a much felt want. I am sure we are "all very grateful to you for what you are doing for us.

"Yours sincerely,

" C. HOARE", Brigadier-General,
commanding Royal Flying Corps, Canada."

Longwood is the Convalescent Home to which Cadets and men of the I.R.F.C. eagerly look forward to being sent from the Base Hospital, after the inevitable crashes, accidents, or illness, which they have experienced, and we ask your hearty co-operation, not only in maintaining Longwood at its present degree of efficiency, but also by assisting us to send the much-needed money, hospital supplies and comforts to the R.F.C. Aid in England, for use in their special hospitals, 37, Bryanstone Square, W.I., 52, Eaton Square, S.W.I., and seven auxiliaries.

If any work of this kind has already been organized in your Town, will such organization endeavour to co-operate with the C.A.A.C.?

If no such organization exists in your Town, will you use your influence to start a branch of the C.A.A.C.?

Will you endeavour to obtain subscriptions in money and comforts, and send the same through the C.A.A.C. either to the R.F.C. Aid in England or for use in our hospital work in Canada?

The Secretary will gladly answer any enquiries, and give any information desired.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary,

MRS. T. S G. PEPLER,
557 Huron St.,
Toronto.

or to the President,
MRS. STUART STRATHY,
54 Clarendon Avenue, Toronto.

God Save the King

circular letter showing that we have done in our first year, and something of what we hope to accomplish. The officers of the C.A.A.C. would make themselves personally responsible for the proper care of, and the good conduct in any such recreation rooms that they may acquire. Trusting that we have not presumed too far in thus appealing to you on behalf of the Executive,

Yours truly M. G. Pepler

CANADIAN AVIATION AID CLUB

Mrs. Stuart Strathy ~~Mrs. E. H. Duggan~~, Pres.

Mrs. Henry Sproat, Vice-Pres.

Mrs. William Ince ~~Miss Catherine Morrell~~, Treas.

Mrs. T. S. C. Pepler ~~Mrs. Stuart Strathy~~, Secty.

557. Huron Street

9. April

Dear Sir Robert

At the request of the C.A.A.C. I write to ask if there be any rooms or dwelling-place (such as an unused Fraternity House) attached to the University of Toronto, which could be placed at the disposal of the C.A.A.

for use as a reception and recreation centre for cadets of the R. F. C, under the administration of the C. A. A. C.

The Executive has seen letters and heard rumours that the women of Toronto are being severely criticized by parents and friends of cadets from all parts of Canada and the United States for not having established some sort of social centre for these boys in Toronto.

The C. A. A. C. has long been anxious to undertake this work but the question of expense has prevented.

If we could secure suitable rooms we believe we should succeed in this much needed undertaking, the officers and members of the Club operating it themselves.

I beg to enclose a copy of a brochure, and a

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CANADIAN AVIATION AID CLUB

TORONTO, April 2nd, 1918

Dear

The Canadian Aviation Aid Club, in seeking to establish Branches in all parts of Canada, ask your earnest co-operation in their work.

Desiring to carry on our War Work with the least possible expenditure, we are not sending deputies to organize our Branches, (from Halifax to Vancouver would entail enormous travelling expenses), but are distributing the enclosed brochure to all the next-of-kin of the Imperial Royal Flying Corps Cadets, and to others who are interested in, or whom we hope to interest in our Club.

BRANCHES to to be formed must adhere to the Constitution of the Canadian Aviation Aid Club, a printed form of which may be obtained from the Secretary, on application.

EACH BRANCH of the Canadian Aviation Aid Club will work independently under its own executive.

EACH BRANCH will make a monthly report to the Secretary of the Club at Toronto, and will receive a monthly report of the Club's work from the Headquarters Branch, Toronto.

EACH BRANCH will send money and supplies to the Headquarters of the Club in Toronto, designating whether for use in Canada or overseas, receiving a receipt for the same from the Secretary.

(Money may be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. T. S. G. Pepler, 557 Huron Street, Toronto, or to the Treasurer, Mrs. William Ince, 94 Prince Arthur Avenue, Toronto. Supplies should be sent to the workroom in care of Mrs. Henry Sproatt, 36 North Street, Toronto.

EACH BRANCH may send money and supplies direct to the Royal Flying Corps Aid, Surrey House, Marble Arch, W.I. London, England, in which case a statement of such must be sent to the Secretary of the Canadian Aviation Aid Club, Toronto.

If a Branch of the Canadian Aviation Aid Club has not yet been organized in your locality, will you join with others in establishing one? Or will you become a member of the Toronto Branch? We have several out of town members and are glad to welcome them at our monthly meetings in Sherbourne House on the 1st Friday of each month, at 3 p.m., or in our workroom at 36 North Street every Wednesday and Thursday, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

All members, whether attached to the Canadian Aviation Aid Club in Toronto, or to one of its Branches, may obtain the Club badge, as shown above, on payment of $1., the annual fee of $1. having been paid.

The badge is of silver, with blue enamelled letters, red enamelled crown.

Will you join in this work for the comfort and care of our soldiers in Britain's magnificent and all important Air Service?

On behalf of of the Executive,

M. E. PEPLER,
Hon. Sec. C. A. A. C.

557 Huron Street.

April 10th, 1918

Mrs. Peeler,

557 Huron Street, Toronto.

Dear Mrs. Peeler:

I am very glad to know that there is such an effective organisation as the Canadian Aviation Aid Club which is endeavouring to make conditions as pleasant as possible for the young cadets of the Flying Corps. I regret, however, that there is no building connected with the University that we can put at your disposal. We have given to the Flying Corps nearly every available square foot of space. We have no residences at our disposal. In fact we ourselves are at the present moment endeavouring to secure an additional house for the accommodation of the women. The Fraternity Houses are owned by the fraternities and we have no jurisdiction over them. I fancy, however, that most of these have before this been disposed of in some way or other. Regretting that I am unable to help you,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.